

JIM MARSHALL
3RD DISTRICT, GEORGIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROJECTION FORCES

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, UNCONVENTIONAL
THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES
AND RISK MANAGEMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIALTY CROPS AND
FOREIGN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

Steve Topinka
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Washington, DC 20515-1003

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June 6, 2006

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The Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras, Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20580-0002

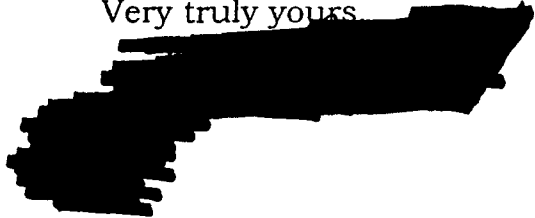
Dear Chairman Majoras:

Enclosed is a copy of an e-mail that I received from Ms. Jennifer Sandefur, a constituent, regarding the proposed FTC business opportunity rule. It's my understanding that the public comment period on this rule has recently been extended until July 17, 2006.

I'm writing to ask that you ensure that her comments are made part of the official public comment about this proposal. I share the concern expressed by Ms. Sandefur that the FTC proposal should not force her to share information about her business associates to a complete stranger. Cultivating these business associates is difficult and there should be protections for small businesses to protect this information.

Thank you for your consideration of my requests and I look forward to your timely response.

Very truly yours,



Enclosure
JM:be

RECEIVED
JUN 12 PM 3:33
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
CONG. CORRESP. BRANCH

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From: Write your representative <[REDACTED]>
Date: 6/4/2006 10:31:28 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: WriteRep Responses

Dear Sir:

Hi. My name is Jennifer Sandefur. I am an independent associate for Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc. and I live in your district. I am writing in regards to the proposed "Business Opportunity" rule (16 CFR Part 437). I understand the point behind this rule, but I believe it is detrimental to the success of legitimate business owners like myself.

It disturbs me that as it is now proposed, the rule would require me as an associate to provide personal information for my ten (10) most recent business associates to anyone who might show an interest in joining me and going into business for themselves. From my point of view, sharing this type of information with a complete stranger who I (or my 10 business partners) do not know well or even at all, seems as best a dangerous and ill-conceived idea. What's worse - under current law, should the person to whom I release that information do anything shady or unlawful with it, that puts me, as a business owner, at a liability. The prospect of someone misusing this information brings up another issue entirely. That seems very much like a breach of privacy and leaves me personally uncomfortable and more than a little nervous. Would you want YOUR information given out to a complete stranger by your associate simply because you chose the same line of work they did?

Suppose you are actually a business owner. Suppose one of your last ten (10) associates opted not to put forth the effort and accountability required to be successful in his endeavor. Do you want this person being given a mandatory 'invitation' to negatively impact your new associates? I am fairly certain on your path to office, you were exposed to the HR adage that 'attitudes are contagious'. Negativity of any kind is detrimental to business. Business owners in a traditional office setting can terminate ineffective, negative employees, thereby reducing the impact they can have on their business. The proposed legislation does not empower us equally.

The proposed rule would also require that lawsuits, which do not concern me or my business, be brought before someone who is considering me as a business partner, as if they DO concern me. And as if that is not enough, the rule doesn't differentiate between frivolous/meritless and legitimate lawsuits, nor would it require final decisions on those lawsuits to show which were won by our company or lost. We operate in this company with integrity and with the motive of providing a service to others. We do not operate to recruit people. If someone wants to join me in entrepreneurship, then they should be able to do so without themselves, me, or my team being portrayed in a negative light.

I am very grateful to our company for the services they provide. Our firm has provided my family timely, useful, and much appreciated services for many years. I was not recruited into the business, rather I ASKED about how I could work for this company because I was so impressed with what the service had done for me personally. This "Business Rule" lumps our business in with those that lack integrity, business ethic and civic purpose. Please contact the FTC today and stop/re-write this legislation.

Thanks for your time.

Respectfully Yours,

J.L. Sandefur
[REDACTED]

==== Original Formatted Message Starts Here ====

DATE: June 4, 2006 8:22 PM
NAME: Jennifer Sandefur
ADDR1: [REDACTED]
ADDR2: